KENT

COUNTY LUNATIC ASYLUM,

BARMING HEATH, MAIDSTONE.

THIRTY-SECOND YEAR.

EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT.

1864.

PRESENTED TO THE COMMITTEE OF VISITORS, 20TH JANUARY, 1865;

AND TO THE COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS, APRIL, 1865.

MAIDSTONE:

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THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT'S

EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT.

The Medical Officer and Superintendent submits to the Committee of Visitors the Eighteenth Annual Report for the year 1864. *Eighteenth Annual Report.*

On the 1st of January 1864, there were in the Asylum 293 males, 390 females, total 683. *Numbers Jan. 1, 1864.*

During the year, 113 males, 131 females, total 244, were admitted; there were discharged 52 males, 81 females, 133 total; and the deaths numbered 54 males, 42 females, 96 tatal; leaving in the Asylum on the 1st of January 1865, males 300, females 398, total 698. *Admissions and Removals in 1864.*

The highest numbers on any day during the past year were on the 29th of July, when the Asylum contained 301 males, 404 females, 705 total; and the lowest were on the 6th of March, when there were 284 males, 380 females, total 664. *Highest and lowest numbers.*

The mean daily population during the year 1864 was 293 men, 394 women, 687 total. *Mean Daily Population.*

The recoveries were 46.72 per cent. on the admissions, being an increase upon last year, when they were 39.11 per cent. The mortality has been less, viz., 10.40 per cent. as compared with 11.96 per cent. in 1863. *Recoveries and Deaths per-centages.*

There has been an increase in the number of admissions upon last year of 4 men and 15 women. *Increase in Admissions.*

Condition of Patients Admitted.

The class of patients admitted has been of a low type; a very large proportion of them being confirmed Lunatics, Imbeciles and Idiots; affording no hope of recovery. Several were admitted in an advanced stage of exhaustion.

Numbers deemed curable.

Of the present 698 patients, 50 only—20 men and 30 women—can be considered curable.

Discharges.

Of the discharges, 9 men and 6 women were removed to other Asylums, and of the remaining number, only one—a female—left the Asylum not improved.

Mortality.

With respect to the ages of those who died during the year, thirty-four; 19 men and 15 women were upwards of 60 years' old; 8 men and 6 women were between 70 and 80; and 2 men and 1 woman had exceeded 80 years' of age. One man and three women had been inmates of the Asylum for upwards of 30 years; and seven men and three women died within a month of admission.

Births.

Three births have taken place in the Asylum since the last report. In one case the father of the patient is reported as being the father of her child. The second made a good recovery, and left the Asylum with her infant, well. The third is progressing satisfactorily, and will be shortly recommended for discharge.

General Condition of Patients.

The general health and bodily condition of the patients have been good.

Commissioners in Lunacy.

Two of the Commissioners in Lunacy visited the Asylum on the 7th and 8th of October, and reported "very favourably of the cleanliness, good order and cheerful aspect generally of the several wards and beds," as well as of the "satisfactory personal condition, habits, and demeanour of the patients."

Employment of Patients.

There has been a decided increase in the *amount* of work executed by the patients, particularly with respect to the females who have been industriously employed in needle-work, household work, and other habits of industry. Stocking knitting is being introduced; as well as amongst that class of patients who are incapable of any mental exertion,

a new kind of employment observed by the Superintendent when visiting one of the Continental Asylums. It consists in picking the warp from the woof of rags, of which there are always a goodly number in Asylums. In the abstract it is not remunerative, although indirectly it is very much so, as most of the patients so employed are mischievous and destructive, and if not occupied would be cultivating their propensities at the expense of the county.

Reading Classes &c.

Reading, writing and singing classes continue to be held under the superintendence of the Rev. S. Hornibrook, to whom my best thanks are due for the trouble bestowed by him on the instruction of the patients.

Amusements.

In addition to the winter entertainments and weekly dances, there have been added, both last season and this, dramatic representations, in which most of the officers have taken active parts. To Mr. Stevens, however, the acting manager, are we indebted for the proficiency to which we have as amateurs attained in this very rational amusement for the patients; which may certainly be looked upon as means to promote their recovery.

A harmonium, concertinas, bagatelle boards, singing birds, flowers, and other amusements have been introduced into the wards, and flower beds made in the airing courts.

Dietary.

The following improvements have been made in the dietary. Each patient has a *specified* quantity of cooked vegetables daily, viz., 12 oz. for the men and 8 oz. for the women. The allowance of butter for breakfast, $2\frac{1}{2}$ oz. a week for each person. A meat dinner is substituted for soup on Tuesdays, which in the additional building is baked; and gravy is given with the suet pudding on Thursdays. There are better joints of meat, which is not purchased as heretofore by the carcase, and the dinners are carved in the wards instead of in the kitchen, by which means the patients have their food more hot and comfortable.

Increase of Attendants and Servants.

A head attendant has been appointed on each side in either building; and an increase in the number of attendants and

servants has taken place to meet the requirements of the increased number of patients.

Chapel.

The enlargement of the Chapel, with the view to accommodate 142 more patients, is fast approaching completion, when there will be sittings for 444 persons.

Water Tower.

The erection of a new Water Tower (now in course of construction) intermediate between the two buildings, with two tanks to hold each 10,000 gallons, will supply a want much felt.

Gas.

Gas-making upon the premises has been discontinued, and since the 10th of October the Asylum has been lighted with gas supplied from the town of Maidstone.

Sewerage.

An efficient system of drainage commenced in 1862 has been completed this year, and the best and most remunerative way of utilizing the sewage is at present under the notice of the Committee.

Death and Illness of Servants.

One female servant died in the early part of the year; and towards the close of it two men have been compelled from ill health to relinquish their duties; each has received a superannuation allowance in proportion to the nature of his duties and his length of service.

Assistant Medical Officers.

I cannot speak too highly of the active and earnest co-operation with me, which continues to be manifested by the Assistant Medical Officers, Mr. Spencer and Mr. Simpson, for the welfare of the patients and general good of the establishment.

Tables.

The usual statistical tables are appended.

Conduct of Officers, &c.

The conduct of the Officers, Attendants, and Servants, at present in the Asylum, has been in all respects satisfactory.

Conclusion.

In conclusion, I beg to express my respectful thanks to the Committee for the means they have afforded me of carrying out those suggestions which from time to time I have considered it my duty to submit.

WM. P. KIRKMAN, M.D.,
Medical Officer and Superintendent.

January 20, 1865.

TABLE No. 1.

Shewing Admissions, Discharges, Deaths, &c., during 1864.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
In Asylum, January 1st, 1864 . , . .	293	390	683
Admitted during 1864	113	131	244
Discharged ,, ...	52	82	134
of whom: Recovered	42	72	114
of whom: Relieved	1	2	3
of whom: Not improved	—	1	1
of whom: Removed to other Asylums . . .	9	6	15
Deaths in 1864	54	42	96
Remaining January 1st, 1865	300	398	698
Of whom deemed curable . . .	20	30	50
,, Criminals	16	3	19
,, County Patients	17	13	30
Average daily number, 1864	293	394	687
Highest number during the year . . .	301	404	705
Lowest ,, ,, . . .	284	380	664
Highest number employed	239	265	504
Lowest ,, ,, ...	195	197	392
Accommodation in the two buildings . .	341	425	766
Vacancies	41	27	68

TABLE No. 2.

Occupations of the 244 Patients admitted in 1864.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Architect and Surveyor	1	..	1
Agricultural Laborers	24	..	24
,, Wives	..	26	26
,, Widow	..	1	1
,, Daughter	..	1	1
Bakers	2	..	2
Bargeman	4	..	4
Blacksmiths	3	..	3
Bricklayers	2	..	2
,, Widows	..	2	2
Boiler Maker	1	..	1
Butcher's Widow	..	1	1
,, Daughter	..	1	1
Carter	1	..	1
,, Wife	..	1	1
Cutler	1	..	1
Cab Driver	1	..	1
Carpenters	5	..	5
Coffee Shop Keeper's Son	1	..	1
Coachmaker's Wife	..	1	1
Clerks Commercial	1	..	1
,, Wife	..	1	1
Cricket Ball Maker	1	..	1
Coachmen's Wives	..	3	3
Chair Maker	1	..	1
Cordwainer	1	..	1
Coalheaver	1	..	1
Domestic Servants	..	29	29
Dockyard Laborers	7	..	7
Engineer	1	..	1
Engine Maker	1	..	1
Footman	1	..	1
Farmer	1	..	1
Gamekeeper	1	..	1
Grocers	3	..	3
Green Grocers	2	1	3
Gardeners	2	..	2
,, Wives	..	3	3
Innkeepers	3	..	3
, Wife	..	1	1
Laundresses	..	7	7
Carried forward	73	79	152

TABLE No. 2, (Continued.)

Occupations.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Brought forward	73	79	152
Ladies' Maids	..	2	2
Milliners	..	5	5
Millwright, Wife of	..	1	1
Marine Store Dealer, Wife of	..	1	1
Miller	1	..	1
No occupation	6	17	23
Nurse	..	1	1
Night Soilman	1	..	1
Ostler	1	..	1
Omnibus Proprietor	1	..	1
Prostitutes	..	5	5
Painters	2	..	2
Printer	1	..	1
Plasterer	1	..	1
Policemen	2	..	2
Quack Doctor	1	..	1
Railway Porter, Wife of	..	1	1
Ropemaker	1	..	1
,, Wife of	..	1	1
Shoebinders	..	2	2
Shoemakers	6	..	6
,, Wives	..	3	3
Soldiers	5	..	5
,, Wife	..	1	1
Schoolmistresses	..	3	3
Sawyers	2	..	2
,, Daughter	.	1	1
Sailors	5	0	5
Sailmaker's Daughter	..	1	1
Surgeon's Assistant	1	..	1
Stoker in Navy, Wife of	..	1	1
Schoolmaster, Daughter of	..	1	1
Seaman, Wife of	..	1	1
Shepherd, Daughter of	..	1	1
Thatcher	1	..	1
Tailors	2	..	2
Upholsteress	..	1	1
Vagrant	..	1	1
Warrant Officer in Navy, Wife of	..	1	1
	113	131	244

TABLE No. 3.

Religious Denominations of the 244 Patients admitted in 1864.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Church of England	80	96	176
Roman Catholics	6	6	12
Wesleyans	9	12	21
Baptists	3	3	6
Presbyterian	1	—	1
Calvinists	—	2	2
Independents	2	—	2
Primitive Methodists	2	1	3
No religion	—	1	1
Not known	10	10	20
Total	113	131	244

TABLE No. 4.

Degrees of Education of the 244 Patients admitted in the year 1864.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Well educated	11	9	20
Able to read and write	60	82	142
Able to read	15	20	35
No education	19	12	31
Unknown	8	8	16
Total	113	131	244

TABLE No. 5.

Causes of Insanity in the 244 Patients admitted in the Year 1864.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Hereditary Predisposition, (sole cause)* ...	7	12	19
Domestic Affliction	5	18	23
Poverty	2	2	4
Puerperal State	...	13	13
Epilepsy	5	5	10
Intemperance	16	5	21
Fright...	1	...	1
Disappointed affections	...	2	2
Fever	1	2	3
Religious fanaticism	7	2	9
Coup de Soleil	6	...	6
Jealousy	...	1	1
Immoral Life	...	2	2
Congenital malformation	3	3	6
Anxiety about Business	3	2	5
Fear of Poverty	...	1	1
Seduction by her own Father	...	1	1
Remorse at leading Immoral Life ...	...	1	1
Loss of Property	1	3	4
Senile Atrophy	2	2	4
Over-excitement at anticipated marriage ...	...	1	1
Committal to Prison	1	...	1
Over Study	1	...	1
Change of Life	...	2	2
Nervous Debility	...	1	1
Injuries to Head	5	...	5
Brain Fever	1	...	1
Erysipelas...	1	...	1
Bad Health	...	1	1
Rheumatic Fever	1	...	1
Masturbation	1	...	1
Seduction...	...	3	3
Failure in Business	3	...	3
Loss of Situation	2	1	3
Loss of Sight	1	...	1
Fright of Mother when pregnant ...	1	...	1
Unknown	36	45	81
Total ...	113	131	244

* Hereditary Predisposition to Insanity traced in 13 men and 19 women.

TABLE No. 6.

Social Condition of the 244 Patients admitted in the Year 1864.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Married	57	63	120
Single	44	46	90
Widowed	12	22	34
Total	113	131	244

TABLE No. 7.

Causes of Death in those cases which terminated fatally during the year 1864.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
General Paralysis	14	2	16
Paralysis, Apoplexy, and Epilepsy	14	8	22
Maniacal Exhaustion	14	14	28
Pyelitis and Abscess of Kidney	1	0	1
Pulmonary Consumption	1	5	6
Heart and Lungs	6	6	12
Natural Decay...	4	2	6
Erysipelas of Head and Face	...	1	1
Facial abscess with effusion of serum on the brain	...	1	1
Diarrhœa	...	1	1
Malignant disease of Liver	...	1	1
Ovarian Tumour	...	1	1
Total	54	42	96

TABLE No. 8.

Forms of Insanity in those cases which terminated fatally during the year 1864.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Mania and Melancholia	25	24	49
Dementia	15	7	22
Idiocy and Imbecility	14	11	25
Total	54	42	96

TABLE No. 9.

Age at Death and Periods of Residence of those Patients who died in the Asylum in the year 1864.

Number in each Decennium.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Time of Residence.			
				Under 1 Month.	Under 1 Year.	Under 10 Years.	From 10 to 31 Years.
Above 80 years	2	1	3	1	1	...	1
From 70 to 80 years ...	6	5	11	...	2	4	5
„ 60 „ 70 „	11	9	20	1	5	6	8
„ 50 „ 60 „ ...	9	7	16	1	3	7	5
„ 40 „ 50 „	10	8	18	5	3	8	2
„ 30 „ 40 „ ...	7	10	17	1	6	8	2
„ 20 „ 30 „	6	2	8	2	1	5	...
Under 20 years	3	...	3	1	...	2	...
Total	54	42	96	12	21	40	23

DIETARY.

	BREAKFAST.	DINNER.	SUPPER.
SUNDAY.....	MEN. For every 8 persons { Cocoa 4 oz. Treacle 8 oz. Milk 1 pint. Water 7 pints Bread 6 oz. Butter 2½ oz. weekly. WOMEN. Cocoa as above. Bread 5 oz. Butter 2½ oz. weekly.	MEN. Cold Meat (cooked, and free from bone) 6 oz., vegetables (cooked) 12 oz., Bread 4 oz., Beer half-pint. WOMEN. Cold Meat (cooked, and free from bone) 4 oz., vegetables (cooked) 8 oz., bread 4 oz., beer half pint.	MEN. Bread 6 oz., cheese 2 oz. (or butter 1 oz.,) beer half-pint. WOMEN. Bread 5 oz. Tea 1 oz. } Weekly. Butter 3½ oz. } Weekly. Sugar 2 oz. } Weekly.
MONDAY ...	Ditto	MEN. Meat Pudding 12 oz., vegetables (cooked) 12 oz., beer half-pint. WOMEN. Meat Pudding 10 oz., vegetables (cooked) 8 oz., beer half-pint.	Ditto. Ditto.
TUESDAY ...	Ditto	MEN. Meat (cooked, and free from bone) 6 oz., vegetables (cooked) 12 oz., bread 4 oz., beer half-pint. WOMEN. Meat (cooked, and free from bone) 4 oz., vegetables (cooked) 8 oz., bread 4 oz., beer half-pint.	Ditto. Ditto.
WEDNESDAY	Ditto	Meat Pudding, &c., as on Monday.	Ditto.
THURSDAY...	Ditto	MEN. Rice-milk 1 quart, bread 4 oz.; or Suet-pudding (with gravy) 12 oz., beer half-pint } Ditto. WOMEN. Rice-milk 1 quart, bread 4 oz.; or Suet-pudding (with gravy) 8 oz., beer half-pint. } Ditto.	
FRIDAY	Ditto	Meat, &c., as on Tuesday.	Ditto.
SATURDAY...	Ditto	MEN AND WOMEN. Soup with liquor from Friday's Meat and shin bone and vegetables added, bread 4 oz. or Bread 6 oz., cheese 1½ oz., beer half-pint.	Ditto. Ditto.

DIETARY (continued.)

EXTRAS ALLOWED FOR WORKING PATIENTS.

Men.—For Luncheon, Bread 4 oz., Cheese 1 oz., Beer ¾ pint. For Dinner, Beer ½ pint every day; Meat 2 oz. on Meat Days, 4 oz. on Soup and Rice or Suet-pudding Days, and Meat Pudding 4 oz. on Meat Pudding Days. In the Afternoon, Beer ½ pint at 4 o'clock and ½ pint at Supper.

Women.—Meat 2 oz. on Thursday.

Those employed in the Laundry have Weekly, Tea 1 oz. Sugar 2 oz. for Breakfast instead of Cocoa; and with those employed in the Kitchens have daily, when employed, for Luncheon, Beer ½ pint, Cold Meat 2 oz., Bread 4 oz. (or Bread and Cheese.) For Dinner, Beer ½ pint on Thursday and Saturday. In the Afternoon, Beer ½ pint and Bread and Cheese.

Male Attendants' Diet.—Daily, Meat (cooked and free from bone) 10 oz., Bread 1 lb., Beer 3 pints. Weekly, Cheese 1 lb., Butter ½ lb., Sugar ½ lb., Tea 2 oz.

Female Attendants' Diet.—Daily, Meat (cooked and free from bone) 8 oz., Beer 2 pints. The rest, same as Male Attendants.

The Servants of the House have no stated allowance of Meat or Bread, but have the same quantities of Cheese and Butter as the Attendants.

W. H. Vale, Printer, King Street, Maidstone.